

Testimony of Rep. Bill Posey (FL-8)
House Armed Services Committee
May 8, 2013

Dear Chairman McKeon and Ranking Member Smith,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in advance of the Committee's consideration of the FY2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). National defense is the federal government's greatest Constitutional responsibility. I appreciate the challenges faced by the Committee, especially after sequestration, with its impact falling significantly more on defense as compared to all other federal spending.

In regards to the FY2014 NDAA, I have a letter that I am submitting with a number of priorities, and I would appreciate the Committee's attention to those requests.

I would like to address in my remarks my concern about the Administration letting slip from its budget the important Range Communications Building ("XY Building") at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. This building must be updated for the 21st Century. The XY building is the hub for command, telemetry and radar for Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Kennedy Space Center, Wallops Island, and all down range space launch sites. It is indispensable for military and NASA launches.

I've been inside the XY Building and not much has changed since the 1970's. Despite its importance for national security, it feels like a museum. The original structure predates the Apollo era, and the facility still utilizes vacuum tubes. I think there are Members not even old enough to remember vacuum tubes! The building is also prone to flooding, which can render it unusable. There are safety concerns with the structure. If you think I am exaggerating, I would be happy to tour it with you.

Our national security and our leadership in space depends on a capable and functioning XY Building. I am informed the Air Force has indicated in previous years that a new facility is a very high priority, but the FY 2014 President's Budget Request did not address this. I understand that the Air Force may place a request for a new facility in the FY2015 Budget, but I've heard some in the Pentagon are looking to put off this critical project until 2017 or beyond.

I am concerned that this can keeps getting kicked down the road. I would ask that the Committee include Report language expressing interest in ensuring that a safe, secure, reliable and modern range communications building be operational in accordance with the needs of the U.S. military and NASA. Such language should direct the Air Force to report back to the Committee the steps being taken to ensure that this upgraded facility, critical to national security, is not being unnecessarily delayed or that the delay in any way jeopardizes U.S. space launch capabilities.

There are other defense priorities, which I believe merit your attention. In separate correspondence, including the letter below, I have outlined these for your consideration. Thank you again for the opportunity to bring these issues to your attention.

BILL POSEY
8TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEES:
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SPACE SUBCOMMITTEE
OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCIAL SERVICES
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
MONETARY POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE

MEMBER OF:
HOUSE AEROSPACE CAUCUS
REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE
CONGRESSIONAL AUTISM CAUCUS
MILITARY VETERANS CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

www.posey.house.gov

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
120 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3671
FAX: (202) 225-3516

MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE:
2725 JUDGE FRAN JAMIESON WAY, BLDG. C
MELBOURNE, FL 32940
(321) 632-1776
FAX: (321) 639-8595

DISTRICT OFFICE:
INDIAN RIVER COUNTY ADMIN. BLDG. A
(772) 226-1701

DISTRICT OFFICE:
BREVARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT OFFICES
IN TITUSVILLE
(321) 383-6090

May 8, 2013

The Honorable Howard "Buck" McKeon
Chairman
House Committee on Armed Services
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McKeon:

As the Committee works on the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) please consider including the following items.

Report Language on the Range Communications Building, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station

This building is the hub for command, telemetry and radar for CCAFS, Kennedy Space Center, Wallops Island and all down range sites including networks for our warfighters. The facility is indispensable for launches. The original building predates the Apollo era, and despite several expansions over the years is prone to flooding and structural deficiencies. I am informed the Air Force has indicated that a new facility is a very high priority, but the FY 2014 President's Budget Request did not address this. I understand that the Air Force may place a request for a new facility in the FY2015 Budget. I would ask that the Committee include Report language expressing interest in ensuring that a safe, secure, reliable and modern range communications building be in operation in accordance with the needs of the U.S. military and NASA. The Air Force should report back to the Committee on the steps being taken to ensure that this upgraded facility, critical to national security, is not being unnecessarily delayed or that the delay in any way jeopardizes U.S. space launch capabilities.

Report language to retain the T-3 Test Aircraft for JSTARS

The E-8 Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) is a critical national security asset that detects and tracks moving targets over land and water. The President's FY2014 Budget Request places the JSTARS T-3 test aircraft into preservation storage. However, the T-3 is important to support the reliability of the Joint Stars fleet through test and development activities. Please consider including report language directing retention of the T-3 test aircraft to ensure the JSTARS fleet is being utilized to its full potential.

In written testimony for the Senate Armed Services on April 24, 2013, Lt. General Charles Davis described JSTARS as a world premier platform. JSTARS has performed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and is dependable for early deployment to monitor emerging crisis situations. General Davis mentioned that critical near term diminishing manufacturing sources (DMS) would not cause grounding of any Joint STARS platforms until 2025 or later. Modernization efforts are keeping JSTARS viable to support the National Military Strategy.

Report Language on Cyber and Cellular Security

In separate correspondence, dated March 21, 2013, I asked the Committee to consider Report language on 1) cyber defense technology, and 2) threats related to the exploitation of commercial cellular networks. I understand House Armed Services Committee professional staff are in the process of reviewing these requests. Suggested language was included in my earlier correspondence.

Support President's FY2014 Request for the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye Program

In separate correspondence, I joined colleagues in supporting the President's request for the Navy's multi-year procurement of the E-2D Advanced Hawkeye program. Fiscal Year 2014 is the first of a planned five-year procurement, which would provide the Navy with 32 E-2D aircraft while generating considerable savings for the taxpayer. As stated in a letter sent to the Committee on May 7, 2013: "The E-2D program, which is currently in development, has met every major milestone on schedule since the program's inception in 2003. Full funding for the E-2D ensures that the carrier air wings will fully realize the power and protection provided by this state-of-the-art early warning and battle management command and control weapons system."

Funding for Bradley Fighting Vehicles

As you are aware, the FY2013 NDAA and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act for 2013 provided an additional \$140 million to maintain the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Production Base. I am informed that manufacturers of the Bradley are asking for Congressional support to direct the Army to move forward out-year funds from FY2015 and FY2016 to help the Army better meet its needs for modernized vehicles with M3 to M2 conversions. Although such changes would likely require consent by the Appropriations Committee, to the extent that the Armed Services Committee is taking into consideration the Army's industrial base and production and supply chain network, please consider the best distribution of these funds over the three-year period.

Report Language on the Public-Public and Public-Private (P4) Initiative

I am encouraged that the Air Force is being proactive and looking for innovative partnerships with local governments. The 45th Space Wing and the Economic Development Commission (EDC) of Florida's Space Coast are currently in dialogue regarding opportunities for public-private partnerships. This form of collaboration has great potential for all parties involved, not least the taxpayer, as we face challenges posed

by tighter budgets. Please consider including the suggested report language as the Air Force continues to move forward with these partnerships.

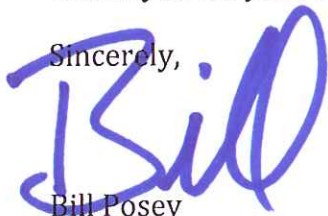
The Committee is impressed with the Department of the Air Force's efforts in trying to reduce operating and service costs through the Installation-Community partnerships. The Intergovernmental Services Agreement approach was authorized in the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act and we believe it provides the necessary authority for the military services to proceed with these innovative and cost-cutting agreements that are especially effective in the severe budget environment. In fact, these are good management practices that should always be pursued regardless of the fiscal climate. The shared services approach is a 'win-win' for the military as well as for local government when approached in the proper manner and we applaud the Air Force for their efforts to date and would look to them for a report on their activities in by March 31, 2014. We understand that the DoD is formulating the necessary policies and procedures for administering this effort, but we are encouraged with the progress being made.

Bill Language for Space A Transportation

Please consider including language in the NDAA from a bill I recently introduced, H.R. 1756, the Deployed Troops Support Act. The bill authorizes the Secretary of Defense to transport to any country, without charge, supplies furnished by a nonprofit that are intended for distribution to members of the Armed Forces. The Secretary would have authority to determine that there is a legitimate need for the goods being shipped, that supplies are suitable for distribution, and that adequate arrangements have been made for distribution. There is already a policy, the "Denton Program" under Section 402 of Title 10, which allows nonprofits to ship humanitarian goods overseas at the discretion of the Secretary. This legislation would extend this discretionary authority for goods to be shipped to U.S. service members on a space available basis.

Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Bill Posey
Member of Congress